

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. The omitted steps are: there is nothing in the body of the claim language that forms any connection to the preamble term “thread or strip” in the preamble. It is noted that according to a very broad reading of the claim language a “strip” might be a smart card, and it is known in the art that smart cards with chips can be made by heating to mold around a chip and then curing to harden the card around the chip after it has been shaped. On the other hand it is understood from the specification and drawings that a “strip” being a smart card is far from the meaning intended by the applicant.

Therefore, claim 1 is amended herein to form a connection in the body of the claim to the preamble term “thread or strip”. Claims 2-5 are dependent upon allowable base claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-5 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. The omitted steps are: there is nothing in the body of the claim language that forms any connection to the preamble term “security thread” in the preamble. It is noted that according to a very broad reading of the claim language a “strip” might be a smart card, and it is known in the art that smart cards with chips can be made by heating to mold around a chip and then curing to harden the card around the chip after it has been shaped. Further, smart transaction cards have long card things like characters, holograms and the like. On the other hand, it is understood from the specification and drawing that a “thread” being a smart card is far from the meaning intended by the applicant.

Therefore, claim 14 is amended herein to form a connection in the body of the claim to the preamble term “thread”. Claim 15 is dependent upon allowable base claim 14. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 14 and 15 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rayburn (U.S. Pat. No.:3,943,685). Specifically, the Office Action stated:

Re claim 9: The term 'security thread' appears only in the preamble and thus is not taken to have weight beyond what is elaborated upon in the body of the claim. Further, the words 'preferably of polyester' are given no patentable weight because polyester is not being required in the claim, only suggested. Nevertheless, Rayburn teaches a chip carrier made of plastic.

As for the remainder of the claims, Rayburn clearly shows (figure 1 is exemplary) a thread (i.e. carrier) which is made of plastic and carries chips. The support and substrate can be the same for the purposes of meeting the claim limitations. The chip components are attached to the carrier thread.

Re claim 10: Rayburn's carrier thread is plastic, which is certainly heat-sensitive.

Claim 9 is amended to recite a security thread "introduceable in banknotes." Additionally, claim 9 is amended to include the 'thread' in the body of the claim. It is respectfully submitted that Rayburn discloses a thin carrier strip (10) made of plastic, which is punched with a plurality of apertures (12) for receiving electrical capacitors (14) or other similar components, see col. 2, lines 3-7, and Figures 1 and 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Rayburn fails to disclose or teach a thread that is introducable in banknotes.

For the reasons discussed above, it is believed that claim 9 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 9 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 10 depends from allowable base claim 9. For the reasons discussed above in conjunction with claim 9, it is believed that claim 10 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 9-10 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rayburn as applied to claim 9 above. Specifically, the Office Action states that it is widely understood that many more modern chip carriers used in manufacturing is a weak adhesive. As for the limitation 'preferably permanently active' this is only a suggestion and therefore carries no patentable weight.

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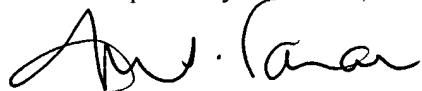
Claim 11 depends from allowable base claim 9. For the reasons discussed above in conjunction with claim 9, it is believed that claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 11 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rayburn as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Asplund. Specifically, the Office Action states that lacking in Rayburn is a teaching that the chip on the thread comprises an antenna. Asplund teaches (figure 3 is instructive) an arrangement where there are threads of electronic components. As can be seen, any electronic component can be added this way. Thus in view of Asplund's teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the old and well known web to add an antenna to a smart card because as Asplund shows, this is an efficient ways of mass card production and antenna are a common card element.

Claim 13 depends from allowable base claim 9. For the reasons discussed above in conjunction with claim 9, it is believed that claim 13 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 13 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-15 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for disposition other than through allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below so that additional changes may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,



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